



# Ocean Dive Centre

at

Veligandu Island Resort & Spa

## General Information

### 1. Contact Info

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Phone: (+960) 6660519 or (+960) 666 0647  
Fax: (+960) 6660648 - Veligandu Reception  
Email: [veligandu@oceangroup.mv](mailto:veligandu@oceangroup.mv)  
Website: [www.oceangroup.mv](http://www.oceangroup.mv)  
Opening Hours: Daily from 8:00 am - 6:00 pm

### 2. About Us

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Diving services at Veligandu Island Resort & Spa are provided by Ocean Dive Centre, a registered PADI Dive Resort, Store Nr. S-24380 and Maldives Ministry of Tourism registered dive centre.

At Ocean Dive Centre we believe that being able to explore the underwater world is a great privilege and we strive to conduct our diving in a safe, fun and environmentally responsible manner.

Our friendly team of diving professionals is committed to conducting safe and enjoyable diving experiences for all levels of divers. We offer a range of diving services in a variety of languages including English, German, French, Spanish and Chinese. For a full description of the services on offer, please refer to the section "Services" below.

Diving at Rasdhoo atoll is exceptional even by comparison to other parts of the Maldives. We're excited to dive here and it is this passion that motivates us to keep diving. We invite you to join us and to share in our enthusiasm for this sensational diving destination.

### 3. Services

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The following section highlights the various diving options available through Ocean Dive Centre. From diving programs for kids to continuing education courses for certified divers, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

For information on times, prices and packages, please refer to the attached weekly schedule and price list. For all further enquiries, please feel free to speak with our diving instructors and staff directly or get in touch with us via the contact information provided.

## **Diving options for certified divers**

If you already have a diving certification, then you are welcome to join our scheduled diving trips. Please note that certified divers are required to present their diving licences and to participate in an orientation dive before joining scheduled dive trips. See the section “Local diving regulations” for more details on the diving regulations in the Maldives. Scheduled diving includes house reef diving, boat diving and other exciting diving opportunities such as full day dive trips & night diving. A copy of our weekly activities schedule is included with this document.

- **Orientation Dive**

Please note that certified divers are required to present their diving licences and to participate in an orientation dive before joining boat diving activities. The orientation dive will take place on the house reef and includes the following safety skills practice: mask clearing, regulator recovery, neutral buoyancy, ascents, descents and alternate air source breathing. This service is complimentary for certified divers who go on to do 5 or more boat dives with us.

- **House reef diving**

Veligandu is very fortunate to have two house reef dive sites which are located at different ends of the Island. Both are accessible from shore or from jetties. The first house reef option is directly in front of the dive centre, facing West, towards the inside of the atoll. All orientation dives are conducted at this site. The second house reef option is located on the South side of Veligandu, facing the outside edge of the atoll. For a detailed description of both house reef sites refer to the “Dive Site Catalogue” that can be found at the dive centre.

House reef dives are an affordable option and are less weather dependant than boat dives. They are especially beneficial to more leisurely divers or underwater photographers who like to take more time when exploring a reef in order to capture the perfect moment.

**Please note that all house reef dives are guided.**

- **Boat diving**

Boat diving gives you an opportunity to sample a greater variety of excellent dive sites both near Veligandu and further afield. For a list of the dive sites accessible by boat, refer to the section on “Dive Sites” below.

We have 2 diving dhonis i.e. traditional style Maldivian vessels. Our main dive boat is a very comfortable fibreglass dhoni outfitted with a spacious sundeck, fresh water shower and on-board toilet. Our second dhoni is a wooden hull vessel similarly outfitted with a spacious sundeck, fresh water shower and on-board toilet.

All of our dive trips are accompanied by a boat captain, 2 boat crew and all dives are guided by dive professionals. The average number of divers per boat is 12 and the maximum number is 18. Dive group sizes range from 4 to 6 divers plus dive guide. Each dive dhoni is equipped with emergency oxygen, first aid kit, radio, GPS, missing diver location system, life jackets, and spare dive gear. Every dive boat is accompanied by either a dive instructor or a dive master trained in emergency first aid procedures. All boat trips are subject to prevailing weather conditions and the final decision on whether a trip happens, lies with the boat captain and dive guides. Additional boat fees and tank fees apply when participating in boat dives. Please refer to the attached price list for more details.

- **Special diving events**

- **Big blue:** At least once a week we conduct an early morning dive into the “Big Blue”. This unique dive takes us in search of the famed Rasdhoo hammerhead sharks which can be seen in the early morning in the deep blue water away from the main reef. A minimum of 4 divers is required to confirm the trip. Divers meet at 6:15 am at the dive centre before heading out by boat. The dive site itself is very close to the Resort, about 15 min, and breakfast is served on board after the first dive. This trip is run in conjunction with a second boat dive to another exciting diving location. These dives are suitable for advanced open water divers and above only.  
Big blue dive trips are charged at the regular diving rate plus boat fees and tank fees.
- **Night dives:** These are offered once a week, on Thursdays, from the boat and require a minimum of 2 divers to confirm the trip. Alternatively, night dives on the house reef are accommodated upon request and do not require a minimum number of participants. Divers must either be advanced open water certified or have done an adventure night dive in order to participate in scheduled night diving activities. Divers meet at the Ocean Dive Centre at 6:45 pm before heading out for the night dive. Night dives are subject to an additional surcharge of US\$ 20.00.
- **Full day dive trips:** These are offered once a week, on Sundays, from the boat and require a minimum of 5 divers to confirm the trip. Starting at 8:30 am we take divers out to enjoy 3 dives giving us an opportunity to explore dive sites that are further away. Lunch is served on board after the second dive and the boat returns to the resort at about 5:00 pm, depending on the combination of dive sites selected. Full day dive trips are charged at the regular diving rate plus boat fees and tank fees.

- **Rental Equipment**

Our rental equipment is in excellent condition and serviced as per manufacturer recommendations. We ensure that all of our divers are equipped with essential in water safety gear to comply with local diving regulations. Divers are most welcome to use their own personal diving gear but take full responsibility for the suitability and integrity of this equipment. Rental equipment is chargeable unless included in the cost of a diving course. Please refer to the price list for more information.

The following diving equipment is available for rent at Ocean Dive Centre.

- Standard 12L aluminium dive cylinders
- Larger 15L aluminium dive cylinders
- Smaller 10L aluminium dive cylinders
- Suunto Zoop, nitrox capable dive computers
- Scubapro T-One BCDs
- Scubapro MKII Regulators with air gauge, LPI and alternate air source
- Mask, snorkel and fins sets
- Shorty wetsuits, 3 mm neoprene
- Surface marker buoys
- Surface alert horns
- 0.5 kg, 1 kg & 2 kg lead diving weights
- Weight belts
- Hartenberger dive torches
- Suunto compasses
- Olympus Tough underwater cameras

## **Diving options for non-certified divers and young children**

If you don't have a diving licence or indeed if you have never tried diving before, then you owe it to yourself to have a go! At Ocean Dive Centre, we encourage the "dive today" philosophy and give you the opportunity to try out scuba diving without committing to a certification program. We also offer diving experiences for kids. From as young as 8 years old, kids can get involved in scuba diving and see some interesting marine wildlife from within the comfort and shelter of our lagoon.

- **Free intro dives**

Have you ever wondered what it feels like to breath underwater? Well, find out for free! Every Thursday afternoon, from 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm at the South beach, we offer guests the opportunity to get acquainted with scuba gear free of charge. The minimum age for participants is 10 years and parental consent is required for participants under the age of 18.

What's involved?

- First, you'll fill out the participant form and listen to a brief explanation of scuba equipment given by a diving instructor.
- Next, you'll get geared up and get wet in the shallows of the lagoon.
- When you're ready, you'll take your first underwater breaths using scuba while being supervised by a professional diving instructor. Then swim around in the shallows, no deeper than 2 or 3 m and get a feel for the gear and the environment.

If you enjoy this intro session, then you might want to consider signing up for a discover scuba diving experience which will give you the opportunity to do a real dive on the house reef.

- **Discover Scuba Diving**

Experience a real scuba dive on our beautiful house reef! This activity is chargeable and the minimum age for participants is 10 years. Parental consent is required for participants under the age of 18.

What's involved?

- First, you'll complete the participant form and listen to a short briefing given by your diving instructor.
- Next, you'll engage in a practice session conducted in the shallows of the lagoon to get you familiar with a few simple diving skills.
- Once you've mastered these and you feel ready to go, your instructor will guide you on a real reef dive to a maximum depth of 12 m.

Congratulations, you've done your first real dive! Now that you've had a real taste of what diving is about, perhaps you'd like to do some more dives or even enroll in a certification program. Just talk to your instructor after the dive to discuss these interests further.

- **Bubblemaking for kids**

Kids between the ages of 8 and 10 years are also permitted to try out diving in the lagoon. This activity is chargeable and parental consent for participants is required. A maximum of 2 participants per instructor may be admitted.

What's involved?

- First, parents will complete the participant forms for their child/children and will accompany their child/children while they listen to a short briefing given by their diving instructor.
- Next, kids will gear up in the shallow water of the lagoon and go through a series of simple exercises to get them comfortable with the diving gear and the new environment.
- Once kids are ready to explore a bit further, their instructor will guide them on a tour of the shallow area of lagoon to a maximum depth of 2 m.

Bubblemaking is a great way to encourage children to learn more about scuba diving and to get them familiar with the basic techniques. Successful bubblemaker participants can opt to do additional lagoon dives or they can enrol in the PADI seal team & PADI master seal team programs. For more information, refer to the courses section below or speak with one of our diving instructors.

### **Diving courses**

We teach the full range of PADI diving courses & programs in English, German, Spanish, French and Chinese. Our classrooms are air conditioned and well equipped to ensure a comfortable learning environment for our students.

Our diving instructors are able to teach the following PADI diving courses and programs:

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| <b>PADI Seal Team &amp; Master Seal Team</b> | These courses are aimed at young kids between 8 & 10 years of age. They build on the bubblemaking experience and allow kids, too young to be officially certified, to earn recognition for their diving efforts. By completing a series of aquamissions, kids learn many of the fundamental diving skills whilst having a great deal of fun. These courses help to build confidence and prepare children for the full PADI open water diver course once they are old enough to participate. |
| <b>PADI Scuba Diver</b>                      | This is an entry level diver certification course. It takes approximately two and a half days to complete and certifies you to dive to 12 m under the supervision of a diving professional. The course involves theory sessions, shallow water training sessions and 2 open water dives. The minimum age for participants is 10 years.  |
| <b>PADI Open Water Diver</b>                 | This is an entry level diver certification course. It takes approximately four and a half days to complete and certifies you to dive to 18 m (depth restrictions apply to participants between 10 and 12 years). The course involves theory sessions, shallow water training sessions and 4 open water dives. The minimum age for participants is 10 years.   |

<b>PADI Adventure Diver</b>	This certification course builds on the open water diver certification. It consists of 3 adventure dives supported by corresponding theory modules. Your instructor will help you to choose these from a variety of available options.
<b>PADI Advanced Open Water Diver</b>	This certification course builds on the open water diver certification or adventure diver certification. It qualifies you to dive to 30 m and consists of 5 adventure dives each supported by a corresponding theory module. Both the adventure deep dive and navigation dive are a mandatory part of this course. Your instructor will help you to choose the remaining 3 adventure dives from a variety of available options.
<b>Emergency First Response (EFR)</b>	This is a CPR and first aid course that can be conducted over one day. It is a certification program and provides the prerequisite basis for the PADI Rescue Diver Course.
<b>PADI Rescue Diver</b>	This is a 3 days course during which students learn to master rescue and self-rescue skills. The course involves theory sessions and practical exercises to develop your skills before testing them on a series of scenarios.
<b>PADI Divemaster</b>	The first step to professional diving. During this course you will refine your skills to perfection. A divemaster can assist instructors during courses, organize diving activities and supervise certified divers.
<b>PADI Specialty Courses</b>	The following courses may take between 1-3 days to complete depending on each course. For more information on each individual specialty courses, please speak with one of our diving instructors.

- Peak Performance Buoyancy
- Drift Diver
- Enriched Air
- Underwater Navigation
- Underwater Naturalist
- Night diver
- Multilevel Diver
- Deep Diver
- Digital Underwater Photography
- Search and Recovery

Course fees include teaching materials, rental equipment, PADI certification, course certificate and log book as required. For more information, please refer to the price list and speak with one of our diving instructors.

## Divers night

Every Monday night between 9:30 pm and 11:00 pm the dive centre team hosts a divers night at the bar. Enjoy a relaxed and entertaining evening suitable for both divers and non-divers alike. Everyone is welcome.

What's it all about?

- Join us in congratulating newly certified divers on their achievements and to welcome them into the diving community.
- Showcase your own underwater photography and videography skills and appreciate the work of others.
- Talk shop with us and ask us questions. Discuss current events and generally hang out at the bar with a bunch of cool people!

## 4. General diving conditions and dive sites

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Talk to divers who have been to Rasdhoo before and you'll soon find out that this atoll is quite a sensational diving location. Although it's a relatively small atoll, there are still some 19 dive sites on offer, ranging from easy going reef dives that are suitable for beginners to more challenging dive sites to tempt experienced divers. Since there are only 2 Resorts in this atoll, our divers are largely spoiled with uncrowded diving conditions.

- **Diving Seasons**

North East monsoon season - Early January to late May

- Generally calmer and drier conditions
- Water temperature between 27°C and 29°C
- Visibility between 20 m and 40 m
- Generally stronger currents

South West monsoon season - Early June to late December

- Stronger winds and rain are more likely
- Water temperature between 27°C and 29°C
- Visibility between 15 m and 20 m
- Generally weaker currents

- **Dive sites & estimated travel time by boat**

1. Veligandu East	5 minutes
2. Madivaru Beyru	15 minutes
3. Madivaru Corner	15 minutes
4. Big Blue	15 minutes
5. Madivaru Thila	15 minutes
6. Rasdhoo Reef	20 minutes
7. Kuramathi Thila	20 minutes
8. Holhi Faru	20 minutes
9. Three Palms	25 minutes
10. Bodu Gaa	25 minutes
11. Caves	40 minutes
12. Bodu Miyaru Faru	30 minutes
13. Miyaru Faru	25 minutes
14. Beyru Kandu	12 minutes
15. North Channel	10 minutes
16. Veligandu North	8 minutes
17. Veligandu Beyru	5 minutes
18. Veligandu House Reef West	0 minutes
19. Veligandu House Reef South	0 minutes

Please refer to the dive site catalogue at the dive centre for detailed descriptions of each dive site along with more general information about diving in the Maldives.

## **5. Diver safety and local diving regulations**

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### **Diver safety**

At Ocean Dive Centre, safety is our top priority and we believe in using good quality, well maintained equipment to serve this purpose.

At the heart of our operation, state of the art Bauer compressor systems produce our compressed breathing air and enriched air nitrox. We are a certified “Bauer Pure Air Station” and our breathing air systems are checked regularly to ensure that they meet the highest industry standards.

We equip all of our divers with the required in-water safety equipment such as surface marker buoys and surface alert horns. The use of diving computers is mandatory.

Our dive guides carry an “Easy Rescue Dive Pro” relocation beacon. In the unlikely event that their dive group should be lost to sight by the dive boat, dive groups can be GPS located and tracked by personnel on board.

All diving activities are supported by standby emergency oxygen units and first aid kits. Our dive instructors and dive guides are trained in the use of this equipment and in emergency first aid procedures.

## Local diving regulations

Scuba diving in the Maldives is regulated by local law. The following section highlights the most relevant regulations that recreational divers must observe. Please read this section carefully to familiarise yourself with these regulations.

1. Certified divers are required to show proof of certification upon check in.
2. Diving is prohibited for a period of 12 hours after flying in a commercial aircraft and for a period of 24 hours before flying in a commercial aircraft.
3. Divers should be in a healthy condition to dive as outlined by the RSTC medical statement. Individuals participating in scuba diving activities will sign a disclaimer to this effect. If the health of a diver is in question, they will need to obtain a clearance certificate issued by a medical doctor before being permitted to dive. Non-certified divers and diving course participants must complete and sign a full RSTC medical statement before engaging in diving activities.
4. Divers are required to participate in a check dive on their first dive. Divers who are able to provide proof, i.e, diving logbook, of having more than 30 logged dives and having participated in diving within the last 3 months may be exempted. Check dives are conducted on the house reef. During the check dive, participants will be required to demonstrate the following skills: regulator recovery, mask clearing and alternate air source use.
5. The general maximum diving depth for all recreational diving is limited to 30 m. Individual diving depths are limited by level of diving certification and/or by age. Diving beyond 30 metres is strictly prohibited.
6. Decompression diving is strictly prohibited and divers are required to remain within the no stop diving limits at all times.

These diving regulations are important for the joint safety of all divers and dive teams and not just individuals. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in keeping scuba diving fun and safe for everyone.

We hope that you'll come diving with us and give us the chance to acquaint you with this diver's paradise.

Sincerely  
The Ocean Dive Team